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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

## **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

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## **NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION**

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNSEL OF RECORD:

3 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 24, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the  
4 matter may be heard, Rodney J. Cook (“Cook”) will, and hereby does, move the Honorable Charles  
5 R. Breyer, located in the San Francisco Courthouse, Courtroom 6, 17th Floor, 450 Golden Gate  
6 Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, for an award of attorneys’ fees for his undersigned  
7 counsel (“Cook’s Counsel”) based on the substantial financial benefits conferred upon Hewlett-  
8 Packard Company (“HP” or the “Company”) as a result of Cook’s motion to intervene (the  
9 “Intervention Motion”)<sup>1</sup>, related submissions, and related court appearances in the above-captioned  
10 shareholder derivative action (the “Action”). As discussed herein, as a result (at least in part) of the  
11 efforts of Cook and his counsel, HP saved at least \$9.1 million, and up to \$39.1 million, that it  
12 otherwise would have been required to pay to Settlement Counsel (defined below) in connection  
13 with its original attempt to settle the Action in June 2014.

14 This Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses (the "Fee Application") is based  
15 upon the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and the Declaration of Robert B.  
16 Weiser in Support of the Fee Application (the "Weiser Decl.")<sup>2</sup>, and such additional evidence or  
17 argument as may be required or permitted by the Court.

## **STATEMENT OF ISSUE TO BE DECIDED**

19 Whether Cook, through his undersigned counsel, The Weiser Law Firm, P.C. and Ryan &  
20 Maniskas, LLP, conferred a benefit on HP through their representation of Cook, whose motion to  
21 intervene in this Action in August 2014, following the submission of the original proposed  
22 settlement, caused (in part, at the least) a material reduction in the amount of attorneys' fees to be

24       <sup>1</sup> The term “Intervention Motion” refers to Rodney J. Cook’s Notice Of Motion And Motion  
25 to Intervene To Remove Lead Counsel And Lead Plaintiff And For Appointment Of New Lead  
Counsel And New Lead Plaintiff; Memorandum Of Points And Authorities In Support Thereof,  
filed August 13, 2014 (ECF Dkt. No. 172).

26 <sup>2</sup> Citations to the paragraphs of the Weiser Decl. appear in the following format: "Weiser  
27 Decl. at \_\_\_\_\_. "

1 paid to "Settlement Counsel" by HP.  
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## **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 Cook submits this Memorandum in support of the Fee Application for an award of  
3 \$2,275,000 to his undersigned counsel as compensation for the benefits their efforts in this Action  
4 conferred on HP (the “Fee Award”) and an incentive award for Cook personally of \$5,000 to be  
5 paid out of the Fee Award for his personal efforts on behalf of HP.

## I. INTRODUCTION

7 Cook and Cook’s Counsel are the only parties to this Action whose efforts conferred a  
8 financial benefit upon HP. Plaintiffs’ Counsel that settled the Action, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy  
9 (the “Cotchett Firm”) and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd (“Robbins Geller”),<sup>3</sup> agreed to release  
10 HP’s claims against its officers and directors for corporate governance relief only, while HP’s  
11 counsel (and counsel to HP’s Demand Review Committee (“DRC”)) have billed HP tens of millions  
12 of dollars in attorneys’ fees. Thus, Cook’s Counsel seeks to be reasonably compensated (and have  
13 its expenses reimbursed) for creating the only financial benefit conferred upon HP in connection  
14 with this Action.

15 The settlement of this Action that was preliminary approved on March 13, 2015 (the “Third  
16 Amended Settlement”) is markedly different than the settlement the “Settling Parties” originally  
17 agreed upon and submitted for preliminary approval in June 2014 (the “Original Settlement”).  
18 Specifically, the Third Amended Settlement differs from the Original Settlement in two material  
19 respects: first, the release language has been significantly narrowed; and second, HP will not be  
20 required to pay at least \$18 million and as much as \$48 million in attorneys’ fees to Settlement  
21 Counsel upon formally engaging Settlement Counsel pursuant to a “retention agreement” (the  
22 “Retention Agreement”) that would become effective had the Original Settlement been approved.  
23 This significant latter change to the settlement terms, which will save HP (and its shareholders) at  
24 least \$9.1 million and up to \$39.1 million,<sup>4</sup> is the result, at least in part, of the efforts of Cook and

<sup>3</sup> The Cottchett Firm and Robbins Geller shall be referred to herein as “Settlement Counsel.”

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the terms of the preliminarily approved Third Amended Settlement, the attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses to be paid to "Settling Plaintiffs' Counsel" total

1 Cook's Counsel. Accordingly, Cook's Counsel is entitled to a reasonable award of attorneys' fees  
 2 based on the considerable financial benefits their efforts conferred on HP.

3 On June 30, 2014, the "Settling Parties" submitted the Original Settlement for preliminary  
 4 approval. The Original Settlement included a unique attorneys' fee provision, pursuant to which  
 5 HP would formally retain Settlement Counsel to serve as HP's counsel in connection with "the  
 6 pursuit of affirmative claims against those who caused HP's losses related to the Autonomy  
 7 Acquisition – including certain legacy Autonomy officers and directors, and potentially, other non-  
 8 released persons and entities under the terms of an engagement letter which will become effective  
 9 upon Court approval of the Settlement." (ECF Dkt. No. 149 at Ex. C). Had the Original Settlement  
 10 been approved and the Retention Agreement become "effective," HP would have paid Settlement  
 11 Counsel up to \$48 million, including a minimum \$18 million "retainer" (the "Original Fee  
 12 Provision"). As stated in the Intervention Motion, the Original Fee Provision was not only  
 13 unorthodox; it represented "perhaps one of the largest counsel fees ever sought in the context of  
 14 corporate litigation where not a single shot has been fired." (ECF Dkt. No. 172 at n.10).<sup>5</sup>

15 Putting aside the sheer (and shocking) size of the fees sought by Settlement Counsel under  
 16 the Original Fee Provision, what the papers submitted by the Settling Parties as part of the Original  
 17 Settlement failed entirely to disclose – including the proposed notice to be disseminated to HP  
 18 shareholders and the Retention Agreement by which HP would formally engage Settlement Counsel  
 19 (attached as an exhibit to the stipulation of settlement) – was that the Cotchett Firm was

20 nearly \$8.9 million (the "Revised Fee Provision"). (ECF Dkt. No. 277). Given that the Original  
 21 Settlement provided that HP would pay at least \$18 million and as much as \$48 million in  
 22 attorneys' fees to Settlement Counsel per the Retention Agreement, while the Revised Fee Petition  
 23 now provides for the payment of slightly under \$8.9 million to Settlement Counsel, the efforts of  
 Cook and Cook's counsel in the Action saved HP (and its shareholders) at least \$9.1 million and up  
 to \$39.1 million.

24 <sup>5</sup> One question Cook and Cook's Counsel repeatedly asked in various submissions in this  
 25 Action was whether Settlement Counsel would have ever agreed to settle HP's claims against its  
 26 directors and officers for no monetary relief to HP in the first place if they did not stand to be paid  
 27 tens of millions of dollars in attorneys' fees for representing HP in a subsequent action against  
 Autonomy's officers, per the Original Fee Provision. (ECF Dkt. No. 220 at 3). Tellingly, Cook's  
 question still remains unanswered, nearly a year after the submission of the ill-fated Original  
 Settlement by the Settling Parties.

1 simultaneously serving as plaintiffs' lead counsel in a class action against HP in this Court,  
 2 captioned *In re HP Inkjet Printer Litigation*, Case No. C-05-3580-JF (the "Class Action"). Thus, in  
 3 the Intervention Motion, filed on August 13, 2014, Cook and Cook's Counsel brought the Cotchett  
 4 Firm's involvement in the Class Action against HP to this Court's attention, and argued that the  
 5 Original Fee Provision was outrageous and improper because, *inter alia*, if the Original Fee  
 6 Provision was approved and the Cotchett Firm was formally engaged as HP's counsel, the Cotchett  
 7 Firm would simultaneously be in an adversarial posture to HP on behalf of a class (*i.e.*, suing HP),  
 8 and directly representing HP. *See* Intervention Motion at 13 ("...the Settlement calls for HP to  
 9 directly engage the Cotchett Firm to represent HP and assist in the prosecution of HP's claims  
 10 against Autonomy and certain of its former officers. Thus, if the Settlement is finally approved, the  
 11 Cotchett Firm will be simultaneously suing HP on behalf of a class and directly representing HP.").  
 12 Moreover, before Cook's Counsel raised this issue, it had never been disclosed to the Court or to  
 13 HP shareholders by the Settling Parties.<sup>6</sup>

14 On August 25, 2014, at the hearing on the motion for preliminary approval of the proposed  
 15 Original Settlement (the "August 25 Hearing")<sup>7</sup>, this Court criticized and questioned the propriety  
 16 of the Original Fee Provision. Notably, although the August 25 Hearing was not held in connection  
 17 with the Intervention Motion, in response to the facts and arguments exclusively raised by Cook's  
 18 Counsel, this Court acknowledged the possibility that a conflict of interest could "arise[] if, in fact,  
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20 <sup>6</sup> The Retention Agreement, in the form of a letter from Robert Particelli, HP's Vice  
 21 President, Commercial and Employment Litigation to Settlement Counsel, contains a section  
 22 entitled "Conflicts of Interest," which states: "At present, neither [the Cotchett Firm] nor Robbins  
 23 Geller is aware of any conflicts of interest in undertaking this engagement other than those  
 24 disclosed to Lead Counsel. Following conclusion of this engagement, [the Cotchett Firm] and  
 25 Robbins Geller shall have the right to undertake representation adverse to HP in accordance with  
 26 applicable rules of professional conduct." (ECF Dkt. No. 149-2 at Ex. A). Thus, even assuming,  
 27 *arguendo*, that the Cotchett Firm disclosed its role in the Class Action **to HP** in negotiating the  
 Original Settlement, this disclosure was never made **to HP shareholders**. Moreover, the "Conflicts  
 of Interest" section of the Retention Agreement makes clear that the Cotchett Firm could not  
 simultaneously act as HP's counsel and have a representation that was adverse to HP.

28 <sup>7</sup> A true and correct copy of the transcript of the August 25 Hearing is attached as Exhibit B to  
 the Weiser Decl.

1 [the Cotchett Firm] is retained to conduct – to – to – perform legal services for Hewlett-Packard.”  
 2 See Weiser Decl., Ex. B at 20:14-20:15.

3 In response to the Court’s criticism at the August 25 Hearing, the Settling Parties  
 4 immediately retreated from requiring inclusion of the Original Fee Provision in any settlement of  
 5 the Action. *See id.* at 17:17-18:10. Cook’s Counsel then stated on the record what was abundantly  
 6 clear – the Intervention Motion had resulted in, or at minimum, contributed to, the removal of the  
 7 Original Fee Provision from the proposed settlement. *Id.* at 58:12-58:17 (“It seems to me that, you  
 8 know, there used to be the \$18 million and possibly \$48 million [in attorneys’ fees] in the  
 9 settlement. Seems like that’s now out. You know, it seems that Mr. Cook actually was fairly  
 10 responsible for that. I would just note that, in his intervention and bringing that to the Court’s  
 11 attention.”). Tellingly, counsel for the Settling Parties did not dispute that statement by Cook’s  
 12 Counsel (nor did the Court).<sup>8</sup> Less than a week later, the Original Fee Provision was removed from  
 13 a second iteration of the Settlement by the Settling Parties, and it was ultimately replaced by the  
 14 Revised Fee Provision as set forth in the Third Amended Settlement.

15 Thus, the procedural record before the Court is clear:

16 • In June 2014, the Settling Parties moved for preliminary Court approval of the  
 17 Original Settlement, including the Original Fee Provision, by which HP would have been required

18 <sup>8</sup> The reply brief that Cook later filed in support of the Cook Intervention Motion on  
 19 September 17, 2014 similarly stated: “...Cook and his counsel are very pleased that their efforts  
 20 caused the removal of that outrageous Settlement term (resulting in a benefit to HP worth anywhere  
 21 between \$18-48 million)....” (ECF Dkt. No. 220 at 2). Cook’s Statement filed on October 24,  
 22 2014 in response to the Court’s October 17, 2014 Order likewise provided: “...Cook and his  
 23 counsel are pleased that they were able to save HP potentially \$48 million through their successful  
 24 opposition to the Original Fee Provision....” (ECF Dkt. No. 258 at 3). And, since the Settling  
 25 Parties never once disputed that the efforts of Cook and Cook’s Counsel resulted in the removal of  
 26 the Original Fee Provision, Cook’s Statement filed on February 6, 2015 in response to the Court’s  
 27 January 23, 2015 Order noted that “HP and the rest of the Settling Parties have tacitly admitted that  
 the efforts of Cook and his counsel” resulted in the Court’s rejection and removal of the Original  
 Fee Provision. (ECF Dkt. No. 294 at n.3). Thus, between August 25, 2014 and February 6, 2015,  
 Cook and Cook’s Counsel stated on ***four separate occasions***, between hearings and written  
 submissions, that their efforts caused the removal of the Original Fee Provision, and the Settling  
 Parties ***never once*** disputed this fact. Accordingly, Cook respectfully submits that the Settling  
 Parties waived any argument(s) in opposition to the instant Motion, and/or that any opposition they  
 may file to this Fee Application is severely undermined by their repeated failure to dispute that the  
 efforts of Cook and Cook’s Counsel resulted in the removal of the Original Fee Provision.

1 to pay \$18 million to \$48 million in attorneys' fees and formally retain the Cotchett Firm as HP's  
 2 counsel via the Retention Agreement, without disclosing to the Court or to HP shareholders that the  
 3 Cotchett Firm was simultaneously serving as lead counsel in the Class Action against HP;

4         ● In August 2014, Cook's Intervention Motion brought the Cotchett Firm's previously  
 5 undisclosed role as lead counsel in the Class Action against HP to light. The Intervention Motion  
 6 highlighted, *inter alia*, the Settling Parties' failure to disclose this significant issue, particularly "in  
 7 light of the nature of the Proposed Settlement," whereby in "an unusual circumstance, the Cotchett  
 8 Firm and another firm are being retained by HP to assist in the prosecution of claims on HP's  
 9 behalf, and together stand to earn a staggering \$48 million in attorneys' fees..."

10         ● At the August 25 Hearing, this Court criticized the Original Fee Provision and,  
 11 consistent with the arguments raised in the Intervention Motion, acknowledged the potential for a  
 12 conflict of interest on the part of the Cotchett Firm if the Original Fee Provision was approved, the  
 13 Retention Agreement became effective, and HP engaged the Cotchett Firm as its counsel;

14         ● At that same August 25 Hearing, Cook's Counsel represented that the Intervention  
 15 Motion resulted in the removal of the Original Fee Provision from the proposed settlement of the  
 16 Action, which counsel for the Settling Parties did not attempt to dispute;

17         ● Cook's Counsel similarly noted in three separate written submissions between  
 18 September 2014 and February 2015 that the Intervention Motion caused the removal of the Original  
 19 Fee Provision from the proposed settlement, which the Settling Parties did not attempt to dispute;  
 20 and

21         ● The Original Fee Provision, which provided that HP would formally retain  
 22 Settlement Counsel at a cost to HP of \$18 million at least, and up to \$48 million, was replaced by  
 23 the Revised Fee Provision, pursuant to which HP will pay less than \$8.9 million to Settlement  
 24 Counsel and whereby HP will not formally retain Settlement Counsel as its counsel.

25         In light of this record, Cook's Counsel is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees,  
 26 because their efforts resulted in massive savings to HP (and its shareholders) – a financial benefit of  
 27 at least \$9.1 million, and up to \$39.1 million. ***In fact, Cook and Cook's Counsel are the only***

1 *parties that have caused HP to financially benefit (even if that benefit was indirect).*<sup>9</sup>

2 Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the efforts of Cook’s Counsel did not solely cause the  
 3 rejection and removal of the Original Fee Provision, Cook’s Counsel undoubtedly contributed to the  
 4 creation of this substantial financial benefit to HP, as Cook exclusively raised with this Court the  
 5 potential for a conflict of interest if the Retention Agreement became effective and HP formally  
 6 engaged the Cotchett Firm. Cook’s Counsel respectfully submits that the Intervention Motion was  
 7 the death knell for the Original Fee Provision, and that because of their efforts and the valuable  
 8 financial benefits conferred upon HP, this Fee Application should be granted.

9 **II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

10 **A. Cook’s Efforts on Behalf of HP in Delaware**

11 Cook is the plaintiff in a parallel derivative proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery  
 12 (the “Delaware Court”) captioned *Cook v. Whitman, et al.*, C.A. No. 9458-VCG, which was filed on  
 13 March 18, 2014 (the “Delaware Action”). The Delaware Action is currently stayed pending the  
 14 outcome of this Action. Cook and Cook’s Counsel initiated the sequence of events, which  
 15 eventually led to the filing of the Delaware Action through the issuance of an inspection demand  
 16 pursuant to 8 Del. C. § 220 (“Section 220”) on December 17, 2012 (the “Inspection Demand”).  
 17 During the first half of 2013, Cook’s Counsel and HP’s counsel negotiated the proper scope of the  
 18 Inspection Demand, with HP making four productions. When Cook and HP reached an impasse on  
 19 additional documents, Cook initiated a Section 220 Action in the Delaware Court on June 20, 2013  
 20 in an effort to obtain documents HP declined to produce. *See Cook v. Hewlett-Packard Co.*, No.  
 21 Civ. A. 8667-VCG, 2014 WL 311111 (Del. Ch. Jan. 30, 2014). Over the next six months, Cook  
 22 traveled to Delaware and was deposed by HP’s counsel, Cook’s Counsel deposed a representative  
 23 of HP, Cook’s Counsel prepared for and litigated a Section 220 trial, Cook returned to Delaware  
 24 and testified at trial, and Cook’s Counsel filed detailed pre- and post-trial briefing. Ultimately, on  
 25

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26 <sup>9</sup> As the Court is well-aware, Settlement Counsel ended up resolving HP’s claims against its  
 27 directors and officers exclusively for corporate governance relief, while HP’s counsel and counsel  
 for the DRC have billed HP millions (if not tens of millions) of dollars in attorneys’ fees.

1 January 24, 2014, the Delaware Court ruled that Cook was not entitled to further documents. *Id.*

2 Nonetheless, the documents procured and reviewed by Cook's Counsel, as a result of the  
 3 Section 220 investigation, permitted Cook to file a detailed and particularized pleading on behalf of  
 4 HP that set forth unique, strong allegations against HP's directors and officers, among other  
 5 defendants. On May 15, 2014, HP filed a Motion to Dismiss or Stay the Delaware Action (the  
 6 "Stay Motion"). Specifically, HP sought to stay the Delaware Action in favor of this Action.

7 **B. The Settling Parties Seek Approval of the Original Settlement in This Action**

8 While briefing on the Stay Motion was ongoing in the Delaware Action, the parties to this  
 9 Action announced a proposed settlement. On June 30, 2014, the "Settling Parties" submitted the  
 10 Original Settlement for preliminary approval. Per the terms of the Original Settlement, the Settling  
 11 Parties agreed that Settlement Counsel would be formally retained to serve as HP's counsel in  
 12 connection with "the pursuit of affirmative claims against those who caused HP's losses related to  
 13 the Autonomy Acquisition – including certain legacy Autonomy officers and directors and,  
 14 potentially, other non-released persons and entities under the terms of an engagement letter, which  
 15 will become effective upon Court approval of the settlement." Under the terms of the Original  
 16 Settlement, Settlement Counsel would have collectively been paid a minimum of \$18 million, and  
 17 up to \$48 million, in accordance with the Original Fee Provision and the Retention Agreement.

18 **C. Cook Moves to Intervene in the Action**

19 In light of the submission of the Original Settlement for preliminary approval, Cook's  
 20 counsel informed the Delaware Court via a letter dated July 16, 2014 of the proposed Original  
 21 Settlement and requested that a hearing on the Stay Motion occur prior to August 21, 2014. The  
 22 Delaware Court subsequently held a teleconference to discuss that request on July 17, 2014.<sup>10</sup>  
 23 During the teleconference, HP's counsel invited Cook to intervene in this Action. *See* Weiser Decl.  
 24 at Ex. A, p. 9 ("If they think the settlement is not in the best interests of the company and the  
 25 stockholders, they certainly have the opportunity to go out there and file their objections and litigate

26 <sup>10</sup> A true and correct copy of the transcript of the July 17, 2014 teleconference with the  
 27 Delaware Court is attached as Exhibit A to the Weiser Decl.

1 them there or *try to intervene in the California action...*”). On July 22, 2014, Vice Chancellor Sam  
 2 Glasscock III issued an order denying Cook’s request for an expedited hearing on the Stay Motion.

3 On August 13, 2014, Cook’s Counsel filed the Intervention Motion and argued therein, *inter*  
 4 *alia*, that the Original Fee Provision was outrageous and improper, because, if it were approved by  
 5 the Court and the Retention Agreement became effective, the Cotchett Firm would simultaneously  
 6 be suing HP on behalf of a class and directly representing HP, and just as importantly, this issue had  
 7 never been disclosed to the Court or to HP shareholders by the Settling Parties.

8 **D. The August 25 Hearing and Cook’s Subsequent Submissions**

9 At the August 25 Hearing, the Court criticized and questioned the propriety of the Original  
 10 Fee Provision and the Settling Parties immediately retreated from requiring its inclusion in any  
 11 settlement. *See* Weiser Decl., Ex. B at 17:17-18:10. Notably, in commenting on the propriety of  
 12 the Original Fee Provision (or lack thereof), the Court recognized the potential for a conflict of  
 13 interest to “arise[] if, in fact, [the Cotchett Firm] is retained to conduct – to – to – perform legal  
 14 services for Hewlett-Packard.” *See id.* at 20:14-20:15. Thus, Cook’s Counsel then stated on the  
 15 record that the Intervention Motion had resulted in the removal of the Original Fee Provision from  
 16 the settlement. *Id.* at 58:12-58:17 (“It seems to me that, you know, there used to be the \$18 million  
 17 and possibly \$48 million [in attorneys’ fees] in the settlement. Seems like that’s now out. You  
 18 know, it seems that Mr. Cook actually was fairly responsible for that. I would just note that, in his  
 19 intervention and bringing that to the Court’s attention.”). Counsel for the Settling Parties did not  
 20 even attempt to dispute this. Settlement Counsel would later admit that the Court’s rejection of the  
 21 Original Settlement was “absolutely right.”<sup>11</sup> Subsequent to the August 25 Hearing, Cook similarly  
 22 represented in three separate written submissions between September 2014 and February 2015 that  
 23 the Intervention Motion caused the removal of the Original Fee Provision from the proposed  
 24 settlement. The Settling Parties did not even attempt to dispute this.

25  
 26 <sup>11</sup> Quentin Hardy, *Judge Rejects Settlement Proposal in HP’s Autonomy Suit*, NEW YORK  
 27 TIMES, Aug. 25, 2014, available at: [http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/25/lawyers-suing-hp-lose-a-payday-gain-a-target/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=1](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/25/lawyers-suing-hp-lose-a-payday-gain-a-target/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=1).

1        **E. The Settling Parties' Second and Third Attempts at Settlement**

2        On September 3, 2014, the Settling Parties submitted a proposed First Amended Settlement.  
 3 Critically, the First Amended Settlement no longer included the Original Fee Provision. After the  
 4 Court again raised concerns regarding certain proposed settlement terms at a hearing on September  
 5 26, 2014 ("September 26 Hearing"),<sup>12</sup> the Settling Parties filed a Second Amended Settlement. The  
 6 Court subsequently entered an Order on December 19, 2014 denying preliminary approval of the  
 7 Second Amended Settlement. On January 22, 2015, the Settling Parties submitted the Third  
 8 Amended Settlement. Pursuant to the terms of the preliminarily approved Third Amended  
 9 Settlement and the Revised Fee Provision, the attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses to be  
 10 paid to Settlement Counsel amount to nearly \$8.9 million.<sup>13</sup> Accordingly, given that the Original  
 11 Fee Provision provided that HP would pay at least \$18 million and as much as \$48 million in  
 12 attorneys' fees, while the Revised Fee Petition now provides for the payment of slightly under \$8.9  
 13 million in attorneys' fees, the efforts of Cook and Cook's Counsel saved HP (and its shareholders)  
 14 *at least \$9.1 million and up to \$39.1 million.*

15        The Court ultimately granted preliminary approval to the Third Amended Settlement  
 16 (including the Revised Fee Petition) on March 13, 2015 (ECF Dkt. No. 319).

17        **III. LEGAL ARGUMENT**18        **A. Cook and His Counsel Have Conferred a Large Financial Benefit Upon HP**

19        The efforts of Cook's Counsel resulted in a substantial financial benefit to HP (and its  
 20 shareholders): the reduction in the amount HP would pay to Settlement Counsel. This is an  
 21 appropriate basis upon which Cook's Counsel may seek an award of reasonable attorneys' fees,  
 22 because where objectors or intervenors successfully challenge a proposed award of attorneys' fees

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23  
 24        <sup>12</sup> A true and correct copy of the transcript of the September 26 Hearing is attached as Exhibit  
 C to the Weiser Decl.

25        <sup>13</sup> Per the terms of the Revised Fee Provision, "Federal Counsel" is to be paid \$7,171,998 in  
 26 attorneys' fees and \$72,948.90 in expenses, while "State Counsel" is to be paid \$1,528,002 in  
 27 attorneys' fees and \$108,873.80 in expenses. Thus, per the Revised Fee Provision, "Settling  
 Plaintiffs' Counsel" will collectively be paid a total of \$8,881,822.70.

1 to plaintiffs' counsel, their efforts have conferred a benefit.<sup>14</sup> *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 219 F.  
 2 Supp. 2d 657, 660 (W.D. Pa. 2002) (citations omitted); *see also Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290  
 3 F.3d 1043, 1051–52 (9th Cir. 2002), *cert. denied*, 537 U.S. 1018, 123 S.Ct. 536, 154 L.Ed.2d 425  
 4 (2002); *In re BankAm. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 228 F. Supp. 2d 1061, 1069–70 (E.D. Mo. 2002); *In re*  
 5 *Horizon/CMS Healthcare Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 3 F. Supp. 2d 1208, 1215 (D.N.M. 1998).

6 Here, the record demonstrates that the efforts of Cook's Counsel caused the removal of the  
 7 Original Fee Provision (and the resulting financial benefits to HP). Cook's Intervention Motion was  
 8 the **only** submission, amongst a number of submissions made by other HP stockholders challenging  
 9 the Original Settlement, based on the impropriety of the Original Fee Provision and Retention  
 10 Agreement in light of the Cotchett Firm's undisclosed role as lead counsel against HP in the Class  
 11 Action. The Court immediately addressed the Original Fee Provision at the August 25 Hearing:

12 **THE COURT:** The second part is the agreement to hire highly skilled and respected  
 13 attorneys to serve in a consulting capacity in litigation against the Company, or the  
 14 former directors, officers of the Company, which was the subject of the acquisition  
 15 to begin with. And the Court has a great deal of difficulty in ascertaining what is the  
 16 value of that service because, clearly, a company can go out and hire lawyers, and  
 17 hire very skilled lawyers, and pay a market rate for those lawyers. And that would be  
 independent of any settlement because companies hire lawyers all the time. This,  
 however, is woven into the settlement of the case, and the Court cannot make any  
 determination as to what I call the added value that – that is given to the shareholders  
 over and above what the shareholders could receive if they simply went out and  
 hired these attorneys. So that is the concern of the Court...

18 Weiser Decl., Ex. B. at 10:19 -11:10.

19 The Court went on to quickly dispatch the Original Fee Provision and Retention Agreement:

20 **THE COURT:** I'm not going to approve the fee arrangement, period. That's out;  
 21 okay? And for the reasons I stated. There's no way for me to figure out the – Among  
 other things, there's no way for me figure out the value of it, the add-on value – to  
 the shareholders.

22 *Id.* at 18:16-21.

23

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24 <sup>14</sup> For purposes of the instant Fee Application, the respective procedural postures occupied by  
 25 an “objector” on the one hand, and an “intervenor” on the other hand, is a distinction without a  
 26 difference. While the majority of the authority on this topic is based on the efforts of objectors  
 27 rather than intervenors, courts have routinely examined counsel fee applications from counsel for  
 objectors in parallel with those submitted by counsel for intervenors, and have applied identical  
 standards. *See In re Domestic Air Transp. Antitrust Litig.*, 148 F.R.D. 297, 359 (N.D. Ga. 1993).

1 Notably, although the August 25 Hearing was not a hearing on the Intervention Motion, in  
 2 rejecting the Original Fee Provision the Court acknowledged that a conflict of interest could exist if  
 3 the Cotchett Firm were formally retained by HP in light of the Cotchett Firm's role as lead counsel  
 4 in the Class Action against HP, consistent with the arguments previously raised in the Intervention  
 5 Motion. Indeed, the Court itself raised the issue of the potential conflict posed by the Retention  
 6 Agreement, without any prodding at the August 25 Hearing from the attorneys for the Settling  
 7 Parties, who studiously avoided even mentioning the issue:

8 **THE COURT:** And the conflict only arises – arguably – only arises if, in fact, he is  
 9 retained to conduct – to – to perform legal services for Hewlett-Packard.  
*Id.* at 20:13-15.

10 Cook's Counsel attended the August 25 Hearing and stated on the record what was already  
 11 abundantly clear: that the Intervention Motion was responsible for (or at the very least, contributed  
 12 to) the Court's decision to reject the Original Fee Provision:

13 **MR. PROFY:** It seems to me that, you know, there used to be the \$18 million and  
 14 possibly \$48 million [in attorneys' fees] in the settlement. Seems like that's now  
 15 out. You know, it seems that Mr. Cook actually was fairly responsible for that. I  
 would just note that, in his intervention and bringing that to the Court's attention.

16 *Id.* at 58:12-58:17.

17 An award of reasonable attorneys' fees for objectors' or intervenors' efforts that result in a  
 18 reduction of the amounts to be paid by the company in connection with settlement has a strong  
 19 precedent. For example, in *Rodriguez v. W. Publ'g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948 (9th Cir. 2009), objectors  
 20 challenged proposed incentive awards amounting to \$325,000 to the lead plaintiffs. Following the  
 21 filing of the objection, the district court denied the proposed incentive awards in its entirety because  
 22 it concluded that the amounts requested were unreasonable and that the incentive agreements were  
 23 inappropriate and contrary to public policy. Despite the district court's decision not to award  
 24 counsel fees to the objectors' attorneys based on their efforts, the Ninth Circuit remanded, noting  
 25 that it "cannot let stand a ruling that Objectors did nothing that increased the fund or substantially  
 26 benefitted the class members." *Id.* at 963.

1       Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the unconventional Original Fee Provision would not have  
 2 escaped this Court’s critical eye had Cook not filed the Intervention Motion, the fact that Cook and  
 3 Cook’s Counsel exclusively raised the issues specifically addressed by the Intervention Motion  
 4 conferred a benefit upon HP. Notably, in *In re Independent Energy Holdings PLC Securities*  
 5 *Litigation*, after the fees sought by lead counsel were reduced, U.S. District Judge Shira A.  
 6 Scheindlin (“Judge Scheindlin”) affirmed an award of attorneys’ fees to objector’s counsel even  
 7 though Judge Scheindlin concluded that the Court “would likely have reached the same result  
 8 [reducing lead counsel’s sought-after attorneys’ fees] with or without the objectors’ comments.” *In*  
 9 *re Indep. Energy Holdings PLC Sec. Litig.*, No. 00 Civ. 6689, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21322  
 10 (S.D.N.Y. 2003). Indeed, notwithstanding this conclusion, Judge Scheindlin noted that that the  
 11 “objectors certainly assisted the Court in making an appropriate fee award.” *Id.*

12       The submission of the Original Settlement by the Settling Parties forced this Court to  
 13 undertake the truly Herculean task of managing not only the voluminous filings associated  
 14 therewith, but also multiple motions to intervene, a motion to sever, and other submissions by a  
 15 dozen law firms.<sup>15</sup> Yet, it was only the Intervention Motion that targeted the Original Fee  
 16 Provision, the Retention Agreement, and the Cotchett Firm’s conflict of interest presented thereby,  
 17 timely raising the issue prior to the August 25 Hearing. The Intervention Motion focused on two  
 18 issues: (1) the Original Fee Provision/Retention Agreement; and (2) the Cotchett Firm’s conflict of  
 19 interest presented thereby in light of its undisclosed role as lead counsel in the Class Action *against*  
 20 HP, at the same time that the Cotchett Firm sought to be formally engaged as counsel *for* HP.

21       The Intervention Motion cast the Original Fee Provision/Retention Agreement as a “side-  
 22 deal” between Settlement Counsel and defendants, which tainted the settlement process, as it was  
 23 unknown whether the governance relief comprising the entirety of the consideration for HP would  
 24 ever had been agreed to by Settlement Counsel absent the Original Fee Provision. The Court agreed  
 25 that these arguments were unique and had not before been submitted to or considered by the Court.

26       

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<sup>15</sup> To date, there are 355 docket entries in the Action; not even one of them is an adversarial motion  
 27 between the Cotchett Firm and defense counsel.

1 At the September 26 hearing on the motion for preliminary approval of the first amended  
 2 Settlement, the Court and Cook's Counsel had the following exchange:

3 **MR. WEISER:** ...but rather this idea of whether the settlement would have ever  
 4 been agreed to -- the govern[nance] settlement now before the Court -- whether it  
 5 would have ever been agreed to, but for the idea that they were negotiating this side  
 6 deal at the time; this incredibly lucrative side deal. And the problem is -- and here's  
 the real point, Your Honor -- whether there's actually a legal conflict or not, or  
 whether there is a perception of a conflict regarding the other issue, the taint remains  
 even now, because the key question cannot be asked –

7 **THE COURT:** -- *because this had not actually occurred to me*. Are you saying that  
 8 if the -- this, quote, "side deal," which is now -- you're saying that this settlement in  
 its present form wouldn't have been negotiated between the parties?

9 **MR. WEISER:** What I'm saying is we don't know, Your Honor.

10 Weiser Decl. at Ex. C at 37:9-24. (emphasis added).

11 The record is clear: Cook and Cook's Counsel raised salient issues in the Intervention  
 12 Motion that played a role in the Court's analysis of the Original Fee Provision and Retention  
 13 Agreement, and led to the improper Original Fee Provision's removal from the settlement, to HP's  
 14 considerable financial benefit. The fact that Cook's Counsel exclusively raised these issues with the  
 15 Court is sufficient to warrant an award of reasonable attorneys' fees. The fact that the Intervention  
 16 Motion did not achieve one of its objectives – the replacement of the Cotchett Firm as lead  
 17 derivative counsel and its client as the lead derivative plaintiff in this Action – does not in any way  
 18 diminish the significant role Cook and Cook's Counsel played in the removal of the Original Fee  
 19 Provision and creating the substantial financial benefits to HP achieved thereby. Even objections  
 20 that are ultimately overruled, when presented in a principled and professional manner, can serve as  
 21 the proper basis for a fee award:

22 The objections raised, although ultimately overruled, were not frivolous, and the  
 23 presence of an objector represented by competent counsel transformed the settlement  
 24 hearing into a truly adversary proceeding. The objections to the settlement caused  
 this Court to spend even more hours in analyzing and assessing the complex  
 25 settlement agreement, and cast in sharp focus the question of the fairness and  
 adequacy of the settlement to all the members of the class.

26 *Frankenstein v. McCrory Corp.*, 425 F. Supp. 762, 767 (S.D.N.Y. 1977) (awarding fees to  
 27 objector's counsel based on, *inter alia*, efforts turning the "settlement hearing into a truly adversary  
 proceeding").

1       The Intervention Motion alone raised the issue of the potential conflict of interest on the part  
 2 of the Cotchett Firm, based on its role in the Class Action against HP, and the terms of the Original  
 3 Fee Provision and Retention Agreement. The Court clearly took Cook's arguments into account as  
 4 demonstrated by its comments at the August 25 Hearing, even though that was not a hearing on the  
 5 Intervention Motion, and the Original Fee Provision was ultimately rejected, resulting in millions of  
 6 dollars (perhaps tens of millions) in savings for HP. Accordingly, Cook and his Cook's Counsel  
 7 conferred a valuable financial benefit to HP, and that benefit warrants an award of reasonable  
 8 attorneys' fees.

9       **B.     The Requested Fee is Reasonable in Light of the Benefit Conferred Upon HP**

10      Cook's Counsel seeks a fee of \$2,275,000, inclusive of expenses, for providing the only  
 11 financial benefit to HP in the Action. Cook's Counsel respectfully asserts that because the benefit  
 12 conferred upon HP by their efforts is financial and therefore readily quantifiable, it is analogous to  
 13 cases involving a "common fund."<sup>16</sup> As explained herein, the benefit conferred on HP by Cook's  
 14 Counsel is at least \$9.1 million and up to \$39.1 million. Had the Original Fee Provision been  
 15 approved, it is undisputed that HP would have paid a minimum of \$18 million to Settlement  
 16 Counsel pursuant to the terms of the Retention Agreement. Therefore, because the Original Fee  
 17 Provision was rejected, and HP as part of the Third Amended Settlement will pay Settlement  
 18 Counsel slightly under \$8.9 million (and will not retain Settlement Counsel), the benefit to HP is  
 19 most conservatively quantified as \$9.1 million. Cook's counsel seeks 25% of the benefit conferred,  
 20 or \$2,275,000.

21      Cook's Counsel also seeks an incentive award for Cook in the amount of \$5,000. For over

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22      <sup>16</sup> In cases involving a common fund, the prevailing course of action is to award a percentage of the  
 23 common fund to the counsel that helped create the fund. That is the standard followed in this  
 24 Circuit. In *Paul, Johnson, Alston & Hunt v. Graulty*, 886 F.2d 268 (9th Cir. 1989), *Six Mexican*  
 25 *Workers v. Ariz. Citrus Growers*, 904 F.2d 1301 (9th Cir. 1990), *Torrisi v. Tucson Elec. Power Co.*,  
 26 8 F.3d 1370 (9th Cir. 1993), and *Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, the Ninth Circuit expressly  
 27 approved the use of the percentage method in common fund cases. In *Paul, Johnson*, 886 F.2d at  
 272, the Ninth Circuit established 25% of a common fund as the "benchmark" award for attorneys'  
 fees. *See also Torrisi*, 8 F.3d at 1376 (reaffirming 25% benchmark); *Powers v. Eichen*, 229 F.3d  
 1249, 1256 (9th Cir. 2000) (same); *In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 943  
 (9th Cir. 2011) (reaffirming 25% benchmark in a common fund case).

1 two and half years, Cook has undertaken efforts on behalf of HP both in this Court and in the  
 2 Delaware Court, without any expectation of personal gain. Cook has dedicated significant time and  
 3 energy to his efforts on HP's behalf. Unlike any plaintiff or HP shareholder in this Action or related  
 4 proceeding, Cook has twice flown from his home in Nebraska to Delaware to sit for a deposition  
 5 and testify at trial, as well as turn over personal documents in light of the proceedings. There is a  
 6 long history of federal and Delaware common law that authorizes incentive awards for  
 7 representative plaintiffs in stockholder actions. *See, e.g., Denney v. Jenkens & Gilchrist*, No. 03  
 8 Civ. 5460(SAS), 2005 WL 388562, at \*31 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 18, 2005) (based on the common law's  
 9 recognition of the important policy role that plaintiffs play in representative actions); *In re Xcel*  
 10 *Energy, Inc., Sec., Derivative & "ERISA" Litig.*, 364 F. Supp. 2d 980, 1000 (D. Minn. 2005)  
 11 ("[s]uch enforcement is vital because if there were no individual shareholders willing to step  
 12 forward and pursue a claim on behalf of other investors, many violations of law might go  
 13 unprosecuted."). These awards become more appropriate when a plaintiff "participated actively in  
 14 the litigation." *In re Relafen Antitrust Litig.*, 231 F.R.D. 52, 82 (D. Mass. 2005). In light of Cook's  
 15 substantial efforts on behalf of HP, a reasonable incentive award in the amount of \$5,000 is  
 16 appropriate.

17 **IV. CONCLUSION**

18 For the reasons stated herein, Cook respectfully requests that attorneys' fees be granted to  
 19 Cook's undersigned counsel in the amount of \$2,275,000, and that a \$5,000 incentive award, to be  
 20 paid to Cook out of the Fee Award, be approved.

21 Dated: June 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

22  
 23 THE WEISER LAW FIRM, P.C.  
 ROBERT B. WEISER

24  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 19, 2015, I authorized the electronic filing of the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the attached Electronic Mail Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 19, 2015.

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